

PROFESSOR KURT LAMBECK, AO, FAA, FRS

Kurt Lambeck is President of the Australian Academy of Science. The Academy is an independent organization of Australia's most distinguished research scientists from the universities, government research agencies and industry. Recent past Presidents have included Dr Jim Peacock, the past Chief Scientist of Australia, and Professor Sir Gustav Nossal. Amongst its many activities the Academy advises government on a broad range of science policy, international and educational issues.

Professor Lambeck has been distinguished Professor of Geophysics at the Australian National University since 1977, including ten years as Director of the Research School of Earth Sciences. He has been a member of, and chaired a number of, high-level Government Committees. Currently these include the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council, the Prime Minister's Science Prizes Committee and the Higher Education Endowment Fund Advisory Panel.

Last month he spoke on ABC Radio's "Ockham's Razor" discussing Ian Plimer's controversial "Heaven and Earth Global Warming: The Missing Science".

In that review Professor Lambeck refuted the sceptic's claims describing Heaven and Earth as "not a work of science" rather "an opinion of an author who happens to be a scientist".

"The science community has the responsibility to provide the best evidence to help our policymakers reach conclusions that are founded in science, that are based on our best current understanding. This is in the interests of society as a whole, not only of particular interest groups" Professor Lambeck said.

"Spreading confusion through poorly argued science does not help in addressing this question."

Professor Lambeck has been widely recognised for his contributions to science. This includes election to the Royal Society of the UK, the French Academy of Science, the US National Academy of Sciences and the national academies of The Netherlands and Norway. It also includes international prizes such as the Tage Erlander Prize from the Swedish Research Council, the Prix George Lemaître from the Université catholique de Louvain (2001), and the Eminent Scientist Award from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2004).